



Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona
José de Jesus Rivera

PRESS RELEASE

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INDIAN COUNTRY INDICTMENTS FROM THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

PHOENIX, ARIZONA – U.S. Attorney José de Jesus Rivera, Guadalupe Gonzalez, Special Agent in Charge, Phoenix Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Dorothy L. Fulton, Chief of Criminal Investigations, Navajo Department of Law Enforcement, announce that a federal grand jury has returned indictments against the following individuals:

VIOLET KOOTSWATEWA, 52, of Moecopi, Arizona, and **JANICE EDISON**, 28, of Tuba City, Arizona, have been charged with four counts of Theft and Aiding and Assisting with Embezzlement which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, per count. The defendants were indicted on February 2, 2000, and accused of embezzling, at least, \$4,000 from the checking account of Family Harmony, Inc., an organization that provides counseling for victims of domestic abuse.

BENJAMIN MANYGOATS, 30, of Tuba City, Arizona, was indicted on January 26, 2000, and is charged with four counts of Aggravated Sexual Abuse which carries a maximum penalty of up to life imprisonment.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and an individual's guilt is established only upon conviction. The investigation in these cases was conducted by the Navajo Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution is being handled by the U. S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.